

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the February 5, 2009 Office Action, and the amendments above together with the comments that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action and thereby place this case in condition for allowance.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowance of claims 13, 14 and 23, and allowable subject matter of claim 24 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Although Applicants agree that the claims are patentable, it is respectfully submitted that the allowed claims should be entitled to the broadest reasonable interpretation and to the broadest range of equivalents that are appropriate in light of the language of the claims and the supporting disclosure, without reference to the statements made in the present Office Action.

Claims 1-12, 15-22 and 25-27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Accordingly, the instant application contains only allowable claims 13-14 and 23-24.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Application No.: 10/809,804

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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